

KIAWAH ISLAND UTILITY, INC.

DOCKET NO. 2001-164-W/S

PRE-FILED REPLY TESTIMONY OF BECKY DENNIS

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Testimony Prepared: March 8, 2002

Hearing Date: March 13, 2002

THIS TESTIMONY IS FILED PURSUANT TO PSC ORDER DATED JANUARY 15, 2002. THE APPLICANT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUPPLEMENT THIS TESTIMONY IN RESPONSE TO THE SURREPLY TESTIMONY THAT MAY BE PRE-FILED BY THE COMMISSION STAFF AND INTERVENORS.

**MR. WALKER:** Ms. Dennis, have you reviewed the staff's pre-filed testimony?

**MS. DENNIS:** Yes. I would like to clarify the facts as to the employees of the Utility. The Staff only allowed for one of the three employees necessary to fill existing vacancies. The Utility was short-staffed by one field employee prior to the two additional vacancies created when the comptroller and second field employee (Bobby Grooms) left the Utility. Vicki Dykes, a long time employee, was moved up to the position of Senior Accountant, leaving her previous position vacant. In an effort to streamline operations, we made a decision to hire two field employees to fill the gap. One of these positions is filled and one remains. We proposed to hire the remaining field employee at approximately \$9.00 per hour. The known and measurable expense of this employee, with benefits, is at least \$21,000 per annum. We hope to fill this vacancy in the immediate future.

THIS ENDS MY REPLY TESTIMONY

